

"God Help Us In These Uncertain Times"

Seek the Light and Trust In God

Wednesday 20 October 2021

6:30 PM-8:00 PM

Opening Prayer

Background

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it." *John 1:5 NLT*

"Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, 'I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.'" *John 8:12 NLT*

"You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." *1 Peter 2:9b NLT*

"But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness." *1 John 1:7-9 NLT*

"Wait patiently for the LORD. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the LORD." *Psalms 27:14 NLT*

In the previous two weeks we have examined forces that would work to extinguish the light that God has given us. In this session, we will explore the light of God which shines supreme and cannot be vanquished by doubt or the forces of evil.

When we speak of God as light, what do we mean? Do we mean that God is like our sun, which illuminates our planet? Or a bright spotlight that shines on a stage? What do we mean?

I believe we mean that God provides us spiritual illumination. God is spiritual illumination. In understanding this, we understand that there is also a contrasting force, spiritual darkness. Spiritual darkness is the source of the evil, the anger, the hate, the fear that we have talked about in earlier sessions. God, by contrast, is the source of truth, of love, of kindness, of righteousness, of selflessly serving others, of joy. God is light. There is no joy in the darkness, but there is abundant joy in the light. And hope. The light gives us hope. Hope for the present and hope for an abundant future.

As 1 John 1:6 tells us, "So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth." But we are not like that. We are not living in spiritual darkness. We are a saved people, trusting in a loving God, confident of the power of the Spirit to overcome all fears, obstacles, and uncertainties and living into the light together. We have not achieved full illumination, but we work at it every day.

Questions to Consider

1. In what ways do you experience darkness in your life now?
2. We all like to be in control...control of our lives...control of others...control of our environment. We become upset and bothered when we sense we don't have "enough" control. Could this be a form of darkness? Discuss.
3. How do you deal with the darkness when you sense it surrounding you?
4. How do you define the light? What does "God is light," mean to you?
5. Let us meditate for a moment on "God is light."
6. The light vanquishes the darkness. Yet we see darkness all around. Why?
7. What are some things we can do to show the Light of God?
8. How is the light illuminating you in this present stressful time?

Closing Prayer